

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 AF-06 NEA-10

L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 INT-05

OES-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 /121 W
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R 031712Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 658

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1766

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 419

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

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PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS ON GRAINS IN THE UNCTAD

REF: (A) STATE 45293, (B) OECD PARIS 6072, (C) LONDON 1047

1. IN TWO RECENT INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS, THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18-20 IN LONDON (PARA 5, REF A) AND THE OECD AD HOC MEETING ON PREPARATIONS FOR UNCTAD IV FEBRUARY 24-25 (PARA 12, REF B) THE EC REPRESENTATIVE HAS STATED OR STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT THE COMMUNITY MIGHT CONSIDER UNCTAD AS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR NEGOTIATION OF A WHEAT AGREEMENT. WE WISH TO DRAW THESE TWO STATEMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION.

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2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO

CONSIDERATION OF AN UNCTAD NEGOTIATING FORUM FOR GRAINS. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT THE REPORTING CABLES CITED DID NOT MENTION ANY US RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNITY'S INTERVENTION ON THIS POINT. IT MAY BE THAT THE COMMUNITY SPOKESMAN WAS ONLY POSING FOR THE BENEFIT OF LDCS WHO WERE AT THE LONDON MEETING. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING IN BRUSSELS TO INDICATE THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER AN UNCTAD FORUM, AND OUR PRESUMPTION HAD BEEN THAT IT WOULD BE OPPOSED. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE COMMUNITY'S STATEMENTS, WE BELIEVE THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE CLEARED UP QUICKLY.

3. WE ARE HESITANT TO QUESTION THE COMMISSION ABOUT THE MEANING OF ITS STATEMENTS IN TWO MEETINGS UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO RESPOND WITH A CLEAR PRESENTATION OF THE US POSITION. CONSEQUENTLY, WE REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSION OF THE US VIEW ON UNCTAD AS A LOCUS FOR GRAINS NEGOTIATION AND ON THE ROLE OF UNCTAD VIS-A-VIS DISCUSSIONS OF COMMODITIES IN WHICH THE US HAS AN EXPORT INTEREST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU02179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760082-0213
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603100/aaaadkqc.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 45293, 76 OECD PARIS 6072, 76 LONDON 1047
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEGOTIATIONS ON GRAINS IN THE UNCTAD
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EPAP, EEC, UNCTAD, IWC-2
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006